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## PEOPLE I HAVE MET

Pages From the Life of a Famous Singer.

## NOTES TAKEN AT RANDOM

Clara Louise Kellogg on Men and Women She Has Seen—Literary People and English Royalty—Lincoln.

My great regret in life is that I did not emulate the "chief" in Burns' poem, who took notes with the view of printing them. If I had done so, I would now have on hand several columns of interesting and, in some instances, historical incidents, which say career as a prima donna made me a participant in. As it is, I carry in my memory enough to write a book with a good-sized appendix; but many a bon mot and many a gray repeat uttered by some distinguished poet, statesman, duke, lord, artist, or general has been dropped into a sea of forgetfulness from which no diligent Boswell can ever bring them to the surface again.

Being the first American prima donna to secure attention, both here and abroad, naturally I had many noted people call on me, and at receptions in the different cities many men and women of letters were presented to me. My friends and acquaintances numbered many who will live in history. Some of them are still alive and doing noble work in their respective vocations.

## Meeting Famous Literary People.

Among the most delightful receptions where the elite of society and the most famous in the literary world assembled were those given by Mrs. James T. Field, of Boston. Such men as Emerson, Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Lowell would come, and on one occasion I met there Anthony Trollope, the English novelist; whose works were then more or less in vogue. The discussion, I remember, was about the recompense of authors. Trollope said he had reduced his literary efforts to a matter of cents, and wrote so many words to a page and so many pages to a chapter, he refrained from using the word money—the English shrink from the word money—the fact that a considerable consideration was the main incentive for his literary labors. I do not recall any brilliant remark made by him. Nathaniel Hawthorne was such a retiring, shy man, I did not meet him, although he came to Mrs. Field's for that purpose. Many people, however, were drawn to the drawing room, expecting to see the author of the "Scarlet Letter" every minute. He was upstairs, but could not summon sufficient courage to come down and mingle with those who had only words of praise for him.

## Glimpses of Abraham Lincoln.

When I first saw Abraham Lincoln, little did I dream that I would soon meet two distinguished generals who gained fame under his administration. My girlish fancy had pictured a president as being somewhat kingly, or at least the "giant of fashion and the mould of form." It was some time after his inauguration, and on the occasion of his visit to New York. He attended a performance at the old Academy of Music, and when the people cheered him I saw a tall, gaunt-looking and very awkward man slowly get up and bow. His hands were encased in white gloves, and they hung as useless appendages by his sides. "Can he be the president of the United States?" I thought. What a disillusion! I knew afterward that beneath his awkward exterior was the gallant spirit of a great and good man. During the time I had not sung in public, and was a spectator. Afterward I met him in Washington, but he was too much engrossed with the war to show any enthusiasm for music.

## General Sherman's Favorite Song.

General W. T. Sherman was more enthusiastic over music than any of the big generals I knew. I remember meeting him and General Grant in Chicago about the middle of the war, and the latter's hand was so swollen from too much hand shaking that he apologized to me for not offering it. General Sherman became very friendly, and often came behind the scenes to visit mother and me. General Grant never showed any appreciation whatever for operatic music. I was in the audience one day in Chicago, and General Grant was present. His stumped no emotion whatever during the singing of the opera, but sat stolidly and unconcerned until the end. Nearly every one asks me if General Sherman's favorite song was "Marching Through Georgia," and I am compelled to answer in the negative. His favorite was "The Old Log Cabin in the Lane." Whenever he came I sang his song, and he enjoyed it in a way that evinced sincere feeling and enthusiasm.

## The Witty Viscountess Comperence.

An American prima donna in London was an event, and I shall never forget what the witty and brilliant Viscountess Comperence said one day when we were dining with the Duchess of Devonshire. Turning to my mother and saying, "You speak English remarkably well. Do they speak English in the states?" "Just a little," replied my mother. A cup of hot tea was handed to the viscountess, and pouring from it into a saucer, she snipped and said: "Now, ladies, do not think this is rude, for I have just come from the queen, and saw her do the same. Let us emulate the queen." Every one present thereupon drank tea from their saucers. What amused me immensely was the value the duchess attached to a present from Commodore McVicker, of the New York Yacht club. It consisted of alleged American Indian handiwork, a small mat such as can be purchased at Niagara Falls or most anywhere here at a nominal price. The duchess had in a table mounted in gold, and it

was covered with glass. The commodore's letter making the valuable present was also conspicuously displayed.

## With Patti in Concert.

Once Patti and I sang at the same concert, and when it ended I remember the diva received attention exclusively from the gentlemen, while I was visited both by the ladies and gentlemen. I was the only American singer present, and the special attention I received from the ladies was more than a compliment. At that time Patti and Nicolini were not married, and the papers had much to say about the singer's desertion of his family. I suggested to Patti at supper that she should go to America. Nicolini with much alarm said: "What! Patti take a sea voyage? Do you want to kill her?" My belief is Nicolini was afraid of the ocean voyage, but he and Patti, in their many farewell tours, are more than willing to brave the dangers of ocean traveling.

## About Patti and Nicolini.

Some one asked me about Patti's voice. She has a fine voice, and, on the whole, she is the most remarkable singer I ever heard. Patti is essentially a machine, and her success is due to her wonderful voice; but as an intelligent actress, a creator of parts, or even as an interesting personality she never could approach the peerless Christine Nilsson. I consider the latter the most intelligent and interesting artist on the operatic stage. Indeed, Nilsson has originality and magnetism, a combination irresistibly captivating to the refined and educated. Her singing was the embodiment of dramatic expression, and she never had to violate all the canons of lyric art by introducing "Home, Sweet Home" in grand Italian opera to satisfy a high-priced audience. There are some outrages which true artists will never submit to, and they should be honored.

## When Emma Abbott began.

It has been said that I am responsible for Emma Abbott's career upon the operatic stage. It is no my wish to speak harshly of her, now that she is no more, but I may be pardoned if I deny the allegation. The first time I saw Emma Abbott was in Toledo, in 1886, when I was singing in opera. She was poorly clad, and was going to sing "Home, Sweet Home" in grand Italian opera, and her desire to get on naturally appealed to me, and I was instrumental in raising a subscription for her so she could come east. She asked me frankly if I thought she could make her living by her voice, and I said yes. My idea was that she intended to sing in churches, and I believe she did when she came to New York. She was then 19 years old, which would have made her about 42 at the time of her death. Never at any time a lyrical artist, she possessed a tireless energy, and succeeded by it alone.

## With Dynamite Underneath Me.

It is impossible for me to relate in one article a tenth of the interesting episodes, hinging on personalities, that I have either participated in or witnessed. But I must say that in a theatre, that was said to be undermined by dynamite, and ready to explode if the Caesar entered. It made me somewhat nervous, and I was glad the Caesar did not come. No friend was allowed to go behind the scenes to speak to me, and all of the employees of the theatre were rigidly inspected upon entering. It was martial law with a vengeance. I did not meet the Caesar, but was introduced to several members of the royal family.

After all, there is no place like America. I began my career here and expect to end it here. The old world is rich in its past history, but the new world is far richer in energy and the blessings of liberty. In this republic we are all kings and all queens.

## A Doubtful Compliment.

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## Lady Morton—Oh, yes, major, little Miss Angel is a charming girl enough and paints very well for her age, you know; but—

Little Miss Angel (overhearing)—Thank you, Lady Morton. I know I take years and years of practice to paint as well as you do—Judy.

## Didn't Quite Understand.

Mr. Hulme tells a good story of the late Sir John Crampton, our minister at Washington, who sent his carriage to be repaired. When he went to see how the work had been done he was surprised to see several other carriages decorated with his arms. The coachmaker explained, "When your carriage was here some of our citizens saw it and liked the pattern on it, and reckoned they would have it painted on theirs as well." This is as good as the newly rich merchant who wrote to a stationer for his crest. He was sent a choice of two crests, and liked them both so well that he put one on his carriage and the other on his notebook.—Saturday Review.

## An Indirect Appeal.

There is company to dinner, and Margaret has been strictly enjoined not to ask for anything. The guests were very lively, and, at the second course, water-fall, family forgot, in the heat of conversation, to serve the little one. A few minutes afterward the servant was ordered to bring another plate.

## A Thoughtful Friend.

Mother—That is a handsome place of house you have selected for Miss Bessy's wedding present; but why do you leave on the price mark?

Daughter—The house is very heavy, and I do not want the dear girl to injure herself carrying it around to the store to find out what it cost.—New York Weekly.

## INNS OVER THE SEA

Would Make the Philosopher Change His Mind.

## FEES, EXTRAS AND LIGHTS

Some of the Hotels Are Very, Very Good But More Often They Are Horrid—Fine Art of Bill Making.

The gentleman who advised his contemporaries and posterity to wonder at nothing has been dead for some time; he never had an opportunity to realize the impossibility of his own advice by stopping at a modern English hotel.

Nature never intended Englishmen to be hotel keepers, and they are too proud to learn where instinct is denied them. The best public accommodation in England is furnished at a moderate rate by a few extremely old and unpretentious little country inns, the next best by the expensive city houses and the worst of all, and the worst possible, by the nineteenth-century hotels.

The American who expects to find hotel living cheaper here than in America

is on the average will live to own his

mistake if he crosses the ocean. It is

true that the tourist agencies sell coupons

on American hotels at a trifle

a little higher than for England, but the

difference is more than made up by the

numerous and generous fees expected

here.

In America one usually knows what

to look for at a hotel. Here he may try

a hundred and own himself unable to

prophesy about the hundred and first.

Nor can he tell anything by advertise-

ment. Many of the London hotels ad-

vertise rooms at three shillings a day to

catch the Yankee trade. The traveler

on following up the advertisement will

find that for a night's lodging his bill

will run up to double that sum. He

pays three shillings for the room as ad-

vertised, two shillings for attendance

and fees the attendants besides—and is

lucky if he gets off without a sixpence

charge for the candle by whose dim and

flickering light he robs his manly

limbs.

If he gets breakfast in the morning at

the same hotel, as he is expected to do,

the same delightful uncertainty exists

as to its cost. He will be told that he

will be charged "according to what he

has"; that seems fair, but if he orders

what would be a very moderate meal at

home the bill will surprise him again.

Of course six shillings is not a large

sum to pay for a room in a city like

London, nor is two or three shillings for

a breakfast exorbitant, but that isn't

the sort of thing a man expects who

has been lured by an advertisement of

"room for three shillings, breakfast

from one shilling and sixpence." In

such announcements the minimum

breakfast is coffee or tea and bread and

butter. This may cost from one to two

and a half shillings.

Out in the provinces things are still

more uncertain. A man may find one

night good accommodations at a hotel

whose charges will foot up only \$1.50 a

day, the next night put up with bad

quarters at \$3 or \$4 a day and the next

night indifferent at any imaginable

price. In tourist resorts, especially

where there is competition, he

must prepare for a stiff bill, say

75 cents for a room, 35 cents

for attendance, \$1 for dinner, 65

cents each for lunch and breakfast and

"what he chooses" in fees or in the

neighborhood of \$3.75 or more a day.

This, it must be borne in mind, does not

include good food, though it does cover

the cost of the food.

or is a funkey in a spitkilled coat and

the food bad the bill will be high.

3. If the bedstead in the room is of

carved mahogany, a hundred years old,

with mattress three feet thick and a

gorgeous canopy and curtains, the bill

will be low; if the bedstead is a cheap

new iron one with brass knobs you'll

pay in gold.

4. If you get a napkin without asking

for it, except your banker for more

funds at once. Fortunately, this does

not happen often. Forty-nine hotels

out of fifty in Britain are guiltless of

napkins.

5. If the dining-room has a bay win-

dow, look out for an extra shilling.

If the house is new, two shillings extra.

6. None of these rules will hold in ex-

ceptional cases, and nearly all the inns

in England are exceptional.

The small house, remote from the

railroad, the inn with its quaint old

sign, its low, beamed roof, broad

fireplace, its perfect quiet, its simple

abundance is almost the sole exception

to the rule of badness. All over the

country, wherever there is travel

enough to call for more than a cross

roads grocery, yet not sufficient trade

to bring in modern improvements, one

finds these splendid old inns, which

date back beyond the days of the coach

to those of the pack horse and are

kept by the descendants many genera-

tions removed of the builder.

There is seldom more than one

guest at a time; his name is not in

the family parlor and he mounts at

night the stone stairway whose steps

are deep-worn by the tread of those

who have lain long in the dust, through

a low doorway, where he bows his

head to avoid a bump, into a room

where generations of guests have slept

before him. Across the one street of the

hamlet is the little church, its arched

windows and rude capitals suggesting

a Norman origin. The door stands

open all day long and he can see at the

back the square of a little higher

than the church, the churchyard

sleeps the rude forefathers of the hamlet

from the days when William the

Conqueror was a baby. A boy comes to

draw a pail of water at the well, and

two or three neighbors drop in to sing

a song with a rousing chorus over a mug

of ale in the taproom, but by nine

o'clock all is quite still. Then the

drawy traveler finds half a dozen pil-

lows off the bed, mounts with difficulty

its commanding height and sinks into

its fathomless depths wondering

whether the Lord will ever forgive him

for suggesting that there can be any-

thing on earth so delightful as an

English inn at its best.

JOHN L. SHARON.

(Grandfather is the tired housewife's

best friend, freeing the body from ache

and pain, creating a buoyancy of

spirits and lovely complexion.)

"Next morning I breakfasted upon

cheap, bread, coffee. The cost was 45

cents.

Imagine the resplendent hotel clerk

of the best hotel in York, Lowell or

Trenton calling up the cook to ask if a

traveller could have a steak for break-

fast instead of a slightly less expensive

chop! For the same money, or for 75

cents at the most, a first-rate American

suburban hotel would offer its guests

the choice between a large variety of

meats, eggs, omelets, fruits of the sea-

son, oatmeal or wheat grits, breakfast

cakes, in short, a meal and not an apolo-

gy for one. And in Paris a breakfast

of four courses, exquisitely cooked, can

be had for from 45 cents up.

On one occasion an English hotel

keeper, in making out a bill for me,

after exhausting his ingenuity in ram-

bling into that poor document extra

charges for attendances, boots, light

and the like—light is always charged

for separately if gas is used, and some-

times if candles—put down this item:

"Sundries, sixpence." What the sun-

dries were I have never discovered.

It is not Yankees alone who object to

these "extra charges." Britons do not

like them. I know a man in London

who, on his motto, "No charge

for attendance." Result—he has had to

enlarge his house five times and rooms

are only to be had by engaging them

in advance. Yet his patronage is al-

most wholly English. He's getting

rich, while his competitors plod on in

the old unbusinesslike fashion.

The American hotel clerk runs his

eyes down the register and says "seven

fifty," the guest flips out a ten-dollar

bill, the clerk flips back the change and

the thing is over. The English clerk,

always a woman says, "Will you be

seated, sir?" Then she draws up a bill

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